THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Govemment has approved in principle the concept of a Southern Gas Grid. The Southern States have competed a prefeasibility study for the project. The feasibility ot importing gas from Oman/Iran is under study. The Southern Gas Grid Porject can be taken up when sufficient gas is available. Efforts are also being made to import LNG for the Southern States.

(d) The financing pattern for the project will be decided after the availability of natural gas/LNG is known.

Oil Exploration by US Companies

1980. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PAT-NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some U.S. companies are being allowed to enter into exploration of oil in the country;

(b) whether some deep water drilling blocks are being offered to these compaines;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what are the other international companies participating in the exploration of oil in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) The names of U.S. compaines who have been awarded contract either on their own or as consortium partners for exploration of oil in the country are given below:—

(1) Okland International LDC, USA
(2) Vaalco Energy Inc., USA
(3) Rexwood Corp., USA
(4) Samson International Ltd., USA
(5) Opseis Geophysical system Inc., USA
(6) Enron Exploration Co., USA
(7) Joshi Technologies Inc., USA
(8) Occidential Internation Exploration & Production Co., USA
(9) Medallion Co., USA

(b) No such proposal is under consideration.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Names of other international companies who have been awarded contracts either on their own or consortiam partners are given below:—

(1) Niko resources Canada
(2) Shell India Production, Develop-ment B.V. Netherlands.
(3) Command Petroleum, Australia.
(4) Tullow Oil Pic, Ireland.
(5) Hardy Oil & Gas, U.K.
(6) Rawa Oil (Singapore) Pte. Ltd., Singapore.

Revision of Oil Production Target by ONGC

1981. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ONGC has revised the crude oil production target from 34.5 million tonnes to 30.5 million tonnes;

(b) if so, reasons therefor; and

(c) the deails of steps taken by Government to increase indigenous production of crude oil, especially from the oilwells in the North-Eastern region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) ONGC revised its projections of crude oil production from the level of 32.80 MMT to 31.092 MMT for the year 1996-97 due to the following reasons:—

— Reduction in anticipated production form the major fields of BRBC especially Bombay High and Neelam, due to unexpected reservoir behaviour, not in" conformity with earlier predictions.

— Constraints in operating conditions on account of law and order prob-

lems and insurgency in the North-Eastem region.

— Frequent power shutdown in Eastern region affected artificial lift operations.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to increase indigenous production of crude oil. including production from the North-Eastem region are—

—Deveplopment of new fields and additional development of existing fields.

—Implementation of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) Schemes and extension of some of EOR schemes from pilot scale to full scale field application.

—Implemention of certain specialised technology such as extended reach drilling, horizontal and drain hole drilling.

—Obtaining the service of international experts wherever considered necessary.

—Maintenance of reservior health through workover operations, pressure maintenance methods.

—Encouraging the participation of private/joint venture compaines in the oil exploration and development programmes.

—3-D seismic surveys of the fields for better reservoir delineation.

—Application and optimisation of artificial lift operations.

—Stimulation of wells.

—Installation of gas lift compressors in Rudrasagar, Lakwa and Geleki fields.

—Execution of sand control/water shut off jobs.

—Augmentation of power supply in the North-Eastern region through installation of gas turbines and 33/11 KV sub-station.

—Revival of non-flowing oil wells by charter hiring of additional workov-ers rigs.

—Installation of Early Production Systems (EPS) in new fields.

डीजल तथा मिटटी के तेल के मूल्यों में वृद्धि के कारण घाटा

1982. श्री नरेन्द्र मोहन : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय ने प्रधान मंत्री कार्यालय को देश में डीजल तथा मिट्टी के तेल के मूल्यों मे वृद्धि किए जाने की आवश्यकता से अवगत करवा दिया है, और

(ख) गत तीन वर्षो के दौरान सरकार को डीजल तथा मिट्टी के तेल के वर्तमान मूल्यों के कारण कितना घाटा हुआ और इस मद में कितनी राजसहायता/अनुदान दिया गया है?

पेट्रोलियत और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री टी.आ. बालू) : (क) और (ख) सरकार पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों के मूल्यों का प्रशासन तेल पूल लेखे की व्यवस्था के माध्यम से करती है। 31.3.97 की स्थिति के अनुसार तेल लेखे से तेल कंपनियों की संचयी बकाया राशि 15,500 करोड रूपए होने का अनुमान है । तेल पूल लेखे की स्थिति की सतत आधार पर घाटे को नियंत्रित करने के लिए विभिन्न विकल्पों का पता लगा रही है । पिछले तीन वर्षो के दौरान डीजल (एच एस डी) और मिट्टी का तेल (एस के ओ) पर अनुमानित राजसहायता निम्नानुसार थी:

(करोड़ रूपये)

उत्पाद	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
एच एस डी	575	430	2180
एस के ओ (घरेलू)	3773	3740	4190

Oil and Gas search at Haldwani

1983. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC has initiated a massive hunt for oil and gas near Haldwani in Tanakpur district of